

Serial No. **10/722,390**

Docket No. **K-0579**

Amdt. dated June 6, 2007

Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-11, and 15-27 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 7-8, 11, 15, and 17-18 are amended, and claims 4 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 21-27 are allowed. The Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 4-10 and 14-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable features of claims 4 and 14 have been added to independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, and claims 4 and 14 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1 and 11 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 5-10 and 15-20, which depend respectively therefrom.

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The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over White, U.S. Patent No. 3,603,631. The rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above, and thus, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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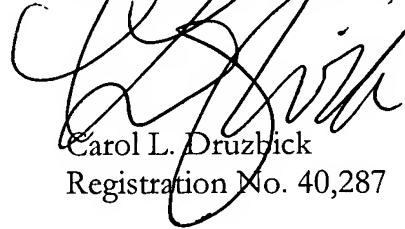
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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